

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (previously presented): A financial transaction card that is transparent or translucent to human viewing yet detectable by automated card processing equipment having near Infrared source/detector pairs each having a source and a detector respectively positioned to face opposing sides of said card when said card is positioned in said equipment for detection and to detect said card by sensing an interruption of near Infrared light transmitted from said source to said detector due to the presence of said card, comprising:

a substantially planar material sheet having upper and lower surfaces bounded by a continuous peripheral edge;

said material sheet being transparent or translucent to human viewing; and

a near Infrared light filter covering one of said upper or lower surfaces of said material sheet, said filter providing sufficient card opacity relative to one or more near Infrared light wavelengths to render said card detectable by said source/detector pairs by blocking near Infrared light emitted by said source from reaching said detector, thereby triggering detection of said card, while still allowing said card to remain transparent or translucent to visible light.

Claims 2-8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (previously presented): A financial transaction card in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said filter comprises a light scattering material.

Claim 10 (Original): A financial transaction card in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said filter is formed as a filter coating, film or deposition applied or secured to said material sheet.

Claim 11 (Original): A financial transaction card in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said filter is a clear, light absorbing material providing the requisite light filtering properties.

Claims 12-14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Original): A financial transaction card in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said filter is formed from a light filtering material disbursed through all or a portion of said material sheet.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method for manufacturing a financial transaction card that is transparent or translucent to human viewing yet detectable by automated card processing equipment having near Infrared source/detector pairs each having a source and a detector respectively positioned to face opposing sides of said card when said card is positioned in said equipment for detection and to detect said card by sensing an interruption of near Infrared light transmitted from said source to said detector due to the presence of said card, comprising the steps of:

forming a substantially planar material sheet having upper and lower surfaces bounded by a continuous peripheral edge;

said material sheet being transparent or translucent to human viewing; and

covering one of said upper or lower surfaces of said material sheet with a near Infrared filter, said filter providing sufficient card opacity relative to one or more near Infrared light wavelengths to render said card detectable by said source/detector pairs by blocking near Infrared light emitted by said source from reaching said detector, thereby triggering detection of said card, while still allowing said card to remain visible to transparent or translucent light.

Claims 17-23 (Cancelled).

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said filter comprises a light scattering material.

Claim 25 (Original): A method in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said filter is formed as a filter coating, film or deposition applied or secured to said material sheet.

Claim 26 (Original): A method in accordance with Claim 25 wherein said filter is formed from a clear light absorbing material providing the requisite light filtering properties.

Claims 27-29 (Cancelled).

Claim 30 (Original): A method in accordance with Claim 16 said filter is formed from a light filtering material disbursed through all or a portion of said material sheet.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A financial transaction card that is transparent or translucent to human viewing yet detectable by automated card processing equipment having near Infrared source/detector pairs each having a source and a detector respectively positioned to face opposing sides of said card when said card is positioned in said equipment for detection and to detect said card by sensing an interruption of near Infrared light transmitted from said source to said detector due to the presence of said card, comprising:

a sheet of material that is transparent or translucent to human viewing; and
a near Infrared light filter applied to said material sheet, said filter comprising a dye and a colorant, and providing sufficient card opacity relative to one or more near Infrared light wavelengths to render said card detectable by said source/detector pairs by blocking near Infrared light emitted by said source from reaching said detector, thereby triggering detection of said card, while still allowing said card to remain visible to transparent or translucent light.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A financial transaction card in accordance with Claim 31 wherein said filter is applied to said material sheet as a liquid coating.

Claim 33 (Cancelled).

Claim 34 (Original): A financial transaction card in accordance with Claim 32 wherein said filter is made from a light absorbing dye material dissolved in a liquid coating material at a dye-to-coating weight ratio of between about 0.2-5.0%.

Claim 35 (Cancelled).

Claim 36 (Cancelled).

Claim 37 (Original): A financial transaction card in accordance with Claim 32 wherein said liquid coating comprises a plastic resin-based coating material.

Claim 38 (Original): A financial transaction card in accordance with Claim 32 wherein said liquid coating is applied to said material sheet by screen printing.

Claim 39-90 (cancelled).

Claim 91 (previously presented): A financial transaction card in accordance with Claim 31 wherein said filter comprises a light scattering material.

Claim 92 (previously presented): A financial transaction card in accordance with Claim 31 wherein said filter is formed as a filter coating, film or deposition applied or secured to said material sheet.

Claim 93 (previously presented): A financial transaction card in accordance with Claim 92 wherein said filter is a clear, light absorbing material providing the requisite light filtering properties.

Claim 94 (previously presented): A financial transaction card in accordance with Claim 31 wherein said filter is formed from a light filtering material disbursed through all or a portion of said material sheet.

Claim 95 (currently amended): A financial transaction card in accordance with Claim 31 wherein said filter is located on said card so that near ~~Infrared~~ Infrared light is filtered over all regions of said card.